

Serial No: 10/056,457
Art Unit: 2879

REMARK SECTION

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejection of the rejection of the present pending patent application under 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a) is hereby requested.

Independent claim 1 and dependent claims 4, 5, 6 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Thornton, Jr. et al (4,360,758). Independent claim 1 has been amended by combination with the limitations of dependent claim 2, thus making independent claim 1 allowable over the art of record. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 3 – 12 remain in the application and thus depend upon a deemed allowable independent claim. Claim 13 has been cancelled as superfluous. Passage to allowance of the remaining claims 1, 3-12 is therefore earnestly solicited.

Claims 2-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations which include the Lorenz conference paper in view of Wada et al. (5,256,940), Kramer (4,801,846), Tsuda et al.(2002/0063503A1) and Hirano et al. (4,315,186). None of these references


Serial No: 10/056,457 REMARK SECTION
Art Unit: 2879

either alone or in combination however, teach the invention as now recited in newly amended claim 1.

It is therefore believed that the claims as amended now recite allowable subject matter, and passage to allowance of the remaining claims is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that any issue remains unresolved, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned for a discussion of same.

Respectfully submitted,


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